concentration of wholesale deposits should be aware of potential risk associated with such deposits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to banks on 6th March, 2007 prescribing limits of inter-bank liability (IBL) to control concentration risk arising thereby. The guidelines, *inter-alia*, provide that IBL of a bank should normally not exceed 200% of its net-worth as at end of previous year. However, banks who Capital to Risk Weighted Assets is at least 11.25% at the end of the previous year are allowed to have a higher limit up to 300% of their net-work for IBL. The guidelines are available at RBI website www.rbi.org.in.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In terms of Para 2(f) of the circular referred to above, the banks having high concentration of wholesale deposits have been advised to be aware of potential risk associated with such deposits and frame suitable policies to contain the liquidity risk arising out of excessive dependence on such deposits.

Provident Fund for members of CII and ASSOCHEM

3548. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of CII and ASSOCHEM are due to pay their workers share of provident fund to the tune of rupees 1,500 crores; and

(b) if so, what are the steps the Minister is contemplating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The record of establishments, which are members of CII and ASSOCHEM, is not maintained by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation separately. However, as on 31.3.2006, an amount of Rs. 2530.07 crore was outstanding from the defaulting establishments. The outstanding amount is inclusive of default in employees' share.

(b) For recovery of outstanding dues, all actions as provided under the

Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are taken. This includes filing of complaints under section 406/409 of IPC, launching of prosecution under Section 14 of the Act, attachment of moveable/immoveable property and arrest of defaulters etc.

Check on circulation of currency

3549. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currency circulation in the country is at the highest level;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that due to this highest circulation of currency, the prices of essential commodities are increasing rapidly;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fake currency is also in circulation in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Central Government to put a check on circulation of currency and uproot fake currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Currency in circulation including currency with the public and cash in hand with banks rose to Rs. 504,167 crore as on March 31, 2007 from Rs. 430,676 crore as on March 31, 2006.

(b) The increase in prices in the recent months is the combined effect of monetary expansion and supply constraints emanating from shortfall in the availability of certain essential commodities.

(c) As per RBI, the value of counterfeit notes detected at RBI and bank branches (excluding such notes seized by police and other enforcement agencies) was Rs. 1,76,75,150 during 2005-06.

(d) Measures initiated by the RBI in consultation with the Government of India to put a check on circulation of counterfeit currencies include, *inter alia*, regular reviewing and updating security features especially in high denominations, close coordination with law enforcing agencies, publicizing features of genuine notes and initiation of research and development in counterfeit detection.